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THE PANAMA-PACIFIC EXPOSITION

In 1915 another World's Fair will be held, the effect of which may be far-reaching and beneficent. A great opportunity awaits San Francisco if she will reach out and seize it. In the advancement of art in America no single group of factors has been more influential than our expositions. The awakening of a national art consciousness is dated from the Centennial, held in Philadelphia in 1876. The Columbian Exposition at Chicago in 1893 was even more directly fruitful, leading, almost immediately, to extraordinary development in architecture, mural painting and sculpture. That wonderful "White City" which rose, as it were, in a night, and almost as suddenly vanished away, is still exerting a

magic influence upon art in America. The Expositions at Buffalo and St. Louis each strengthened conviction and lent additional impetus to the movement. San Francisco will undoubtedly take a step in advance, but in precisely what direction none can foretell. Neither the Centennial nor the Columbian Exposition deliberately purposed to exert influence in any one direction, but their organizers strove to do all things as well as they might be done; they were men of visions and faith, and what was almost equally essential, good judgment. San Francisco has all the requisites of a great exposition—a splendid site, a picturesque and novel environment, enterprising and intelligent citizens. Chicago triumphed because it secured the best talent in the land, expert advice and the services of trained artists. Apparently in this particular San Francisco is following her example, for already expert opinion has been sought in regard to the selection of site. Chicago built upon a grand scale, but San Francisco will do well if she remembers that beauty can be set over against size and that the dream city of the sea has not yet been created. It would be delightful to discover an exposition which was not, merely from point of extent, beyond human endurance. Here is an opportunity to establish precedent. But, furthermore, San Francisco has the knowledge that she is tilling fertile ground, that the West is awake and that all the seeds sown will be nurtured and fruitful. For not only appreciation, but production, in the field of art we may look in the near future to our western country. Without doubt a strong and thoroughly representative art exhibition should be one of the principal features of the Panama-Pacific Exposition, but of even greater importance is it that the exposition itself should be a real and complete work of art. This it may be, serving as a factor in national development, and, through some permanent elements, as a perpetual improvement to the city in which it is held, for art concerns itself primarily with reconciling utility and beauty, in supplementing, completing and perfecting nature's work.